

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed 07 March 2007. No fee is due for the addition of any new claims. The fee for an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith.

Claims 1-51 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-51. The present Response cancels claims 23-41, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-22 and 42-51. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1-22 and 42-51

Regarding claims 1-22 and 42-51, Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Notice of Appeal and a Pre-Appeal Conference Request. Applicants' substantive response to the rejections of independent claims 1, 10 and 42 is set forth in the Pre-Appeal Conference Request and incorporated herein by reference.

Applicants also respectfully continue to disagree with the positions taken by the Examiner with respect to the dependent claims 2-9, 11-41 and 43-51, and reserve their right to argue these claims separately on appeal.

Claims 23-51

Regarding claims 23-51, these claims are canceled herein without prejudice, in order to better focus the appeal. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims at another time.

Other Matters and Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner but not relied upon have been reviewed, but are not believed to render the claims unpatentable, either singly or in combination.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (FSTK 1004-1) for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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